



Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Reg Griffin
404-656-0239
reg.griffin@dec.al.ga.gov



Research Concludes Georgia's Pre-K Program Benefits All Children

Recent report supports effectiveness of Georgia's lottery funded Pre-K program

ATLANTA, Ga., (January 25, 2013) – A recently released report by national experts in early childhood education and care concludes that, as a universal program, Georgia's Pre-K Program can offer a beneficial experience to all children. The report is the culmination of a year-long study commissioned by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) at the request of the Georgia General Assembly.

The study, conducted by scientists at the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (FPG), evaluated the effectiveness of the Pre-K program by observing a random sample of 100 Georgia's Pre-K classrooms and by assessing the skills of a sample of 509 children enrolled in Pre-K in the 2011-2012 school year. In the study FPG focused on children's outcomes and classroom quality.

Regarding children's outcomes, FPG's research indicates that children exhibited significant growth during their Pre-K year across all domains of learning including language and literacy, math, general knowledge and behavioral skills. The study reveals that children who were Spanish speaking dual language learners showed growth in skills in both English and Spanish, although their growth tended to be greater in English. Regarding classroom quality, the study found that the global quality of classroom practices was in the medium quality range.

Research Concludes Georgia's Pre-K Program Benefits All Children – Page 2

“We are excited about the findings of FPG’s evaluation of Georgia’s Pre-K Program,” said DECAL Commissioner Bobby Cagle. “Their research supports that the Pre-K services our state provides are laying a solid foundation for learning for the four year olds enrolled in the Pre-K program. The study also revealed areas where we can continue to enhance our services.”

To access the complete report, visit the DECAL website at
<http://dec.al.ga.gov/BftS/EvaluationGAPreKProgram.aspx>

###

About Bright from the Start

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia’s Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.al.ga.gov.